



The Art of Island Life A6



Backwater Adventures B1



Three Chords and the Truth B8



Nature Notes A5



Beachcombing Report A5



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The gift of Love By LuAnn Kingsbury

Around The Island

ISLAND MOON LIVE THURSDAY'S FROM 11-1 ON YOUTUBE AT ISLAND MOON LIVE AND ON FACEBOOK AT THE ISLAND MOON NEWSPAPER

f **You Tube**

Island Moon Live

By Dale Rankin

It is the time of Ribbon Cuttings, celebrations, and anniversaries *Around The Island* this week as speeches were speeched, sand flung in the air, and the ribbon cut on the first part of the improvements at Commodores Park. As work began on the park over at the new Bob Hall Pier crews were putting the final touches on the new pier in preparation for the ribbon cutting and grand opening there set for 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 24. After that ceremony the pier will be open and free to the public for at least ninety days. The opening of the restaurant on the pier is scheduled by the end of 2026.



Bob Hall Pier in 1950 Yacht Club celebrates 40...

The Padre Island Yacht Club celebrates 40 years this week. What started as a group of friends way back in 1986 has turned into an Island institution with a permanent home and weekly gatherings and numerous events throughout the year. The club has been intricately involved with the La Posada Lighted Boat Parade over the years and helps raise toys for the Marine Reserve Toys for Tots program. Congratulations for the first forty and we look forward to the next forty. We will have more on this story in the next issue.

Early Voting

Early Voting has begun and you can cast your ballot at the Island Presbyterian Church. Across the state 18.7 million voters are

Around cont. on A5

Corpus Christi Army Depot in a fight for survival

Number of jobs will drop to 1000 by year's end without government action

By Dale Rankin

The number of jobs at the Corpus Christi Army Depot in Flour Bluff (CCAD), one of the chief drivers of the Coastal Bend economy, will drop to one thousand by the end of 2026 without a change in current government rules for management of the repair of Army helicopters, according to the head of South Military Task Force which is working to reverse the trend.

The depot is the world's largest rotary wing repair facility and injects more than \$1.6 billion into the local economy each year. According to Dave Berger, President of the American Federal of Government Workers Local 2142 CCAD has experienced roughly an eight percent reduction in jobs each year. According to background information provided to the Corpus Christi City Council this week "the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is the United States Army's leading facility for rotary-wing repair and is one of the largest helicopter repair centers in the world. Depots are defense installations that operate as "organic industrial bases," which

means they are internal government facilities where the military can repair and upgrade its own equipment."

The number of jobs at CCAD has dropped from 5900 in 2011 to the current 2078 and will continue to

By the numbers...

Corpus Christi Army Depot

Jobs by year

2011	5900
2015	4980
2021	3191
Current	2078
January 2027	without new policy 1000
(Operates as business not a Department of Defense agency)	
\$1.7 billion	contributed to Texas economy
\$67,000	average salary military personal
\$96,000	average salary civilian personnel

decline if the U.S. Army rules for managing repairs isn't amended by the end of 2026, according to Kresten Cook, Executive Director of the South Texas Military Task Force which made a recent trip to Washington D.C. to lobby the legislature for a change in what is called the 50-50 rule for allocating repair work on Army helicopters. The reduction in force at CCAD so far has been done through offering early retirement incentives and attrition and has not yet included direct layoffs, he said.

The crux of the reduction in the number of jobs at CCAD is buried in the language of what is referred to as the 50-50 rule regarding how repair work for Army helicopters is doled out between NCAD workers who are government employees, and repair workers who are employed directly by the private helicopter manufacturers and was authored by former U.S. Congressman Solomon Ortiz. That rule was designed to split the repair work evenly between in-house government employees (NCAD) and the privately paid

Port A Mardi Gras Parade Takes to the Streets



People took to the streets on Fat Tuesday in the annual Port A Mardi Gras Parade. More images on A6

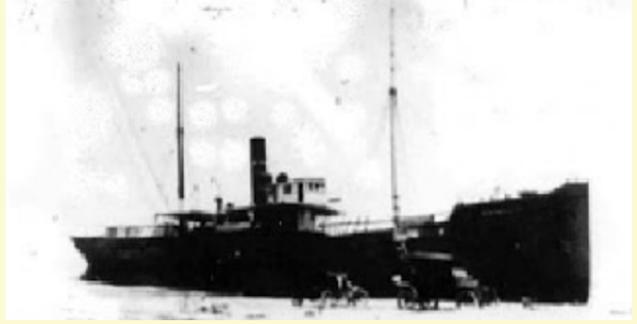
A little Island history

Thirty channels cut through The Island

The arrival of the Nicaragua wreck

Editor's note: This is the latest in a series of stories based on the memoirs of Islander Louis Rawalt who moved to The Island with his wife Viola in 1926 after being given six months to live by doctors. He lived here for more than 50 years.

In the last issue he and his friend Shorty had made their way to their cabins 40 miles down the beach in



The Nicaragua

History cont. on A7

It's time to Vote!

Early Voting underway

Early Voting in the March 3 Party Primaries has begun and runs through February 27. After the first day of voting on Tuesday a total of 2780 votes were cast across Nueces County – 1577 Democrats and 1203 Republicans.

At the polling station on Padre Island 159 votes were cast – 42 Democrats and 117 Republicans. Padre Island has a total of 8649 registered voters.

At the Ethel Eyerly Senior in Flour Bluff 199 votes were cast – 74 Democrats and 125 Republicans. The highest turnout across the county was at the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center where 433 votes were cast – 231 Democrats and 202 Republicans.

Voters on Padre Island (Precincts 40 and 81) will chose a new U.S. Congress member in the newly redrawn District 34 where several candidates who have withdrawn from the race remain on the ballot. Under Texas law voters do not register by party and any registered

Vote cont. on page A3

PIPOA election is on!

Online voting begins February 25

By Dale Rankin

One week ago it was uncertain if the Padre Isles Property Owners Association would need to hold an election in 2026. With only four candidates registered to run and four seats on the Board of Directors open, whether an election would be required at all was in doubt. A week later, with the deadline for candidates to register now passed, six candidates have registered and the election is on. The question is now whether 489.8 ballots will be cast by the total of 4988 members in order to reach the required quorum and make the election official. The election will be conducted through the PIPOA website ManageCASA where as of this week 1389 members have joined out of 3265 members invited by the PIPOA, according to Executive Director Rick McGinley. In the past year the number of PIPOA members has dropped to 4988 properties.

Voting begins February 25 the races for the majority of the seats on the board which will be done

PIPOA cont. on A3

Commodores Groundbreaking



A groundbreaking ceremony was held this week for \$3.4 million in improvements at Commodores Park. Work is already underway.

New amenities include:

- Covered Basketball Court Pavilion: Providing a year-round sports venue.
- Tennis and Pickleball Courts: With two tennis courts and four pickleball courts.
- Playground: A fenced-in, shaded area with poured-in-place surfacing for safety.
- Bird Observation Blind: Encouraging wildlife appreciation and education.
 - Concrete Walking Trail: For strolls and exercise.
- Picnic Area: Designated space for family and community gatherings.
 - Parking and Accessibility: A concrete parking lot with golf cart accommodations and ADA accessibility throughout.
- Park Lighting: Ensuring safety and extended use during evening hours.

This project is backed by the voter-approved Bond 2022 and 2024. The design of the park improvements has been entrusted to Turner Ramirez Architects and the construction will be carried out by the team at Weaver and Jacobs Constructors.



Students in the Tango Flight Program at Flour Bluff ISD this week put the final touches on an aircraft built with their partners at the Corpus Christi Army Depot CCAD.



The Kites were flying high last weekend at the beach in Port A. Photo by Ronnie Narmour

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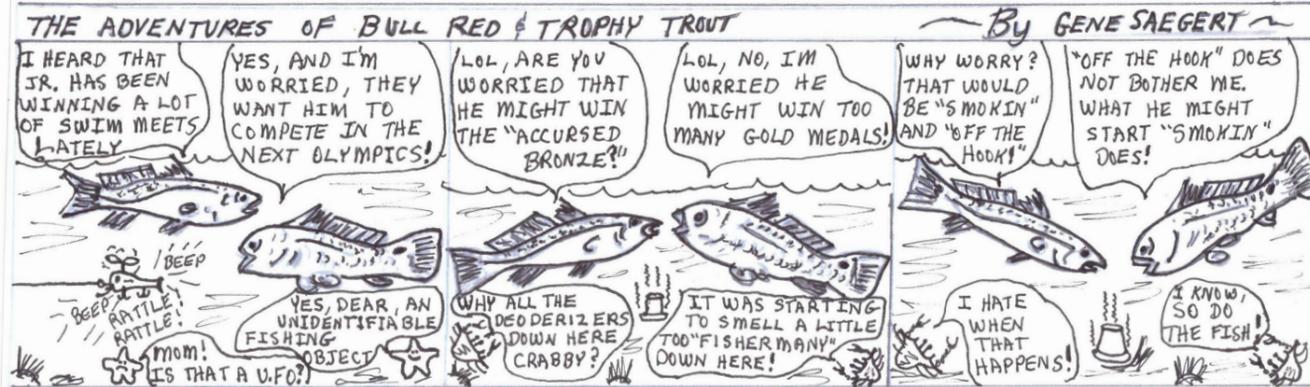
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VOTE!

- ✓ Early Voting: February 17th - 27th
- ✓ Election Day: Tuesday, March 3rd



By the numbers

Island vote 2022 Party Primaries

32,765 votes cast Nueces County

13,687 Democrat votes cast Nueces County (6.2% of total)

19,078 Republican votes cast Nueces County (9.1%)

Padre Island

8512 total registered voters Padre Island

2167 votes cast both parties Padre Island

Democrats

394 total votes cast on Padre Island (4.7% of registered voters)

Republicans

1773 votes cast (21% of registered voters)

Port Aransas

3208 registered voters

796 Republican votes cast (25%)

184 Democrats (5.7%)



The bollards still remain in front of the Island House at Whitecap beach, but should be removed before Barefoot Mardi Gras on the 28th

Windy the Fisherman Windy the Fisherman

By Bobbie Kimbrell

Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell moved to Flour Bluff in the early 1940s where he was a commercial fisherman until his retirement. He lives there today.

Windy's name was Winfield Garfield Boman and he was from Long Island in New York City. He lived a couple of blocks from the Fulton Seafood market, (which at that time was the largest seafood market in the world). Windy did some commercial fishing in that area and then later on joined the Army and became a cook.

During the Spanish American War he was in on the battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba. He got a pension for being in that war which was about \$100 per month. After Windy got out of the Army he moved to Corpus Christi and Flour Bluff and started commercial fishing.

Later on he built a 35-foot motorboat to be able to fish anywhere in the Laguna Madre. The boat had a car engine with a marine manifold for the cooling system and it was a tunnel stern. The boat was about ten feet wide and about five and one half feet high, therefore you had to bend over when you were in the cabin. He had an alcohol stove that omitted a blue flame and had to be pre-heated before the flame got hot. He had an icebox that would hold about 2000 pounds of fish and a canopy over the back end of the boat for shade and weather wise. Windy fished mostly gill nets and always kept a bottle of whiskey on board in case a game warden came to visit.

In the winter time Windy caught mostly small drum and then in the spring time he fished near Baffin Bay along the King Ranch Shoreline catching large trout. He made what is called a trap set with the gill nets strung close to the shore with a hook in the south end where all of the trout were headed north and the hook would keep them

Vote cont. from A1

voter can vote in either primary, however, a voter who casts a ballot in a party primary may not switch to vote in any runoff race in the other party's primary race.

Early Voting sites (Partial list)

Island Presbyterian Church 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.

Ethel Eyerly Senior Center 654 Graham Rd. Flour Bluff

Ellis Memorial Library 700 W. Ave. A Port Aransas

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center 5151 McArdle Rd.

Polling times

8 a.m.-5 p.m. February 17-20

7 a.m.-7 p.m. February 21

Noon-6 p.m. February 22 (Courthouse only)

7 a.m. -7 p.m. February 23-27

PIPOA cont. from A1

exclusively online for the second year in a row with paper ballots sent only to members with no confirmed email address on file. The results of the election will be announced at the annual PIPOA Members Meeting on Saturday, February 28 where no voting in the race will be conducted.

In the 2025 race for two board seats 424 votes were cast which was 78 votes short of the 502 required for a quorum of members (10%) so no members were elected to the board requiring the appointment of members to fill empty seats and the board has continued to operate with six members.

The candidates

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 Ross Garcia
 Mark Dick
 Randy Eaton
 Jim McFadden
 Tom Cable



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San Juan's Restaurant	Isle Mail N More
Wash Tub	Island Italian
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The Gaff	Spanky's
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Ellis Memorial Library	WB Liquor
Bernie's Beach House	Island IGA
Flour Bluff	Island Fitness
H.E.B.	Ridleys
Ethyl Everly Senior Center	My Coastal Home

Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

May you live in interesting times... Whether it was coined by the British or the Chinese the proverb has found its way to our shores. As Election Season 2026 kicks off this week it's time to ask ourselves what is at stake for the 8649 registered voters on Padre Island, and the answer it is a lot.

Corpus Christi Army Depot

We feature a front page story in this issue on the future of Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD). Since 1961 CCAD has been a driver of the local economy and a source of good paying jobs as well as an important supporter of Flour Bluff ISD. But as things now stand by the end of 2026 the number of jobs there will drop to 1000 from a high of 5900 in 2011 and if those jobs leave they are not coming back. The solution lies in a change in policy at the Washington D.C. level and a recent trip by the South Texas Military Task Force to Washington outlines the uphill climb we face.

When the U.S. Congressional districts in Texas were redrawn last year our district on Padre Island, and across most of Corpus Christi, was one of five in across the state that was refigured in an effort to move it across party lines. As a result of the redistricting CCAD has moved from the congressional district of Congressman Michael Cloud into the new district which runs south into the Rio Grande Valley. Cloud has been instrumental in trying to get legislation that would retain jobs at CCAD, albeit so far unsuccessfully, but when the dust settles after the November 2026 elections CCAD will fall under the stewardship of a new representative, either the incumbent Democrat, or to a newly elected Republican yet to be determined. How that will play out is unknown at this point but our voice in the nation's capital will either be a rookie congressman, possibly from the Corpus Christi area, or the incumbent whose support has traditionally been based in The Valley.

However, that turns out may not matter since by the time the new congressional members takes office the future of CCAD will largely have been settled, but the issue will continue to swirl when the new legislature is seated next year and who represents us there will have a direct impact on what happens at the facility in Flour Bluff. In some way the timing could not have been worse for us because as Cloud's focus understandably shifts toward his new district to the north we, and CCAD, are left in limbo in Washington at a time when an existential threat looms.

Crucial to this issue is the likelihood of a runoff in the Republican Party Primary in this race where a plethora of candidates means there likely will be a runoff where the traditionally high voter turnout numbers of Island and Flour Bluff voters could determine the winner. It is a crucial race for us.

Port of Corpus Christi

The Port of Corpus Christi remains in Cloud's district and port officials in January released numbers that show a decline in tonnage moved through the port in 2025. It wasn't much of a drop but the numbers are revealing.

Compared to 2024, liquefied natural gas exports grew by 15.4 percent to 18.6 million tons but crude oil shipments decreased 2.3 percent from 2024 to 127.4 million tons, while dry bulk and agricultural goods decreased 2.5 percent and 54 percent, respectively. In the fourth quarter of 2025 Port customers moved 50.1 million tons of commodities, compared to 54 million tons in the same period of 2024, which remains the Port's record quarter.

Those numbers do not indicate that the sky is falling but they do show that there is change in the wind as liquefied natural gas emerges as the commodity of the future. This comes at a time when, as Island voters, we no longer have a vote in who represents the port in Washington. It goes without saying that the port is crucial to the South Texas economy and declining numbers are not a good omen. The shift to natural gas will be impacted by rules that originate in Washington and the best way we can impact what happens at the port is through the election of our County Commissioners and Corpus Christi City Council members who appoint the port's Board of Directors. This means that the policy toward port board appointments needs to be an issue in the upcoming elections for the Corpus Christi City Council.

City Council

That brings us to the next phase of the 2026 election cycle as official filing for the seats on the city council begins in July. Some candidates have already emerged and as expected water is front and center. City planners have informed the city council that in November 2026 – and likely sooner – we will be withdrawing more water from our water supply each day than is flowing into it. Think about that. The tipping point for the viability of our water supply arrives the same month as the city elections. In my decades of covering city government I have never seen the dwindling of the water supply coincide with a city election cycle. As the saying goes, when God made Texas he made enough land for everybody but just enough water to fight over and never has that been more true than right here right now.

It seems inevitable that eventually desalination will arrive on our shores but not before we go to the polls in November. Not to be Chicken Little here but we are coming right down to the wire on where to get our water and in spite of the moves made at city hall this week to shore up the short-term water supply things are starting to get a bit scary around here. Let's make no mistake, it is not whether to have desalination that is driving the anti-desal movement, it is the future of the port and the industries there that is in play and if you combine cuts in jobs at the port and at CCAD the future of the South Texas economy will not be the same.

Interesting times indeed.

CCAD cont. from A1

employees of the manufacturers. The idea behind the original bill was to protect jobs at CCAD and also to protect the Army from price increases by private repair operations during a time of war when expediency becomes crucial.

However, the language in the bill has allowed the Army to spread the 50-50 split across all repair work rather than singling out helicopter work at CCAD. An attempt to close that loophole in the Defense Authorization Act in 2025 by U.S. Congressman Michael Cloud was unsuccessful and if the 2026 version of the act does not include the altered language the number of jobs at NCAD will drop to 1000 by December 2026, Cook said.

"We are up against the lobbyists for the big manufactures in Washington and they have a lot of influence," Cook said. "If the local jobs go away the workers will move to other facilities and it is unlikely the jobs will ever return here." He said some CCAD workers have already received letters inquiring if they are willing to relocate to other repair facilities outside the area.

The Army has cut back on the number of helicopters it purchases each year due to changes in policy, in part due the change in war fighting seen in the conflict in Ukraine, through a policy called the Army Transformation Initiative which has seen the number of helicopters processed through CCAD each year drop from 700 per year in 2021 to the current 100.

"As the number of helicopters sold has dropped the manufacturers have moved to make up the difference by increasing their share of the repair work," Cook said.

Over the lifespan of a single helicopter the cost of rebuilding a single machine, which takes about one year for a turnaround at

CCAD, will far exceed the purchase price, Cook said.

Further complicating the problem for CCAD is their advance ordering of replacement parts, machinery, and accumulation of working capital in anticipation of processing the previously higher number of helicopters each year. The reduction in annual demand for production has left the depot with the cost of the currently unneeded parts and working capital and the debt that accompanies it putting upward pressure on the cost of repairs for each unit at CCAD making it more difficult to match the unit repair cost of private work.

City leaders are advocating for modernization at CCAD as part of their strategy. Their proposed solution includes ensuring the depot maintains a steady workload, establishing it as the primary repair hub for Black Hawks, and clearing old debts from unplanned government missions. The resolution will be included in the pitch to congressional leaders through the end of 2026 in the hope of shifting the work on rotary wing aircraft across all branches of the service to the Corpus Christi facility.



Resolution in the Corpus Christi Army Depot passed by the Corpus Christi City Council this week

Resolution supporting the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), and urging Congressional and Department of War support for its continued operations and growth.

WHEREAS, the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD), located at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, is the world's largest helicopter repair facility and plays a vital role in national defense by providing maintenance, repair, overhaul, and modernization of rotarywing aircraft for the U.S. Army, other military branches, and Foreign Military Sales (FMS); and

WHEREAS, CCAD has served as a premier aviation readiness provider since 1961, ensuring that Army aviation units receive safe, reliable, and missionready aircraft essential to national security and global military operations, thereby designated as the Army's Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for rotary-wing aviation sustainment; and

WHEREAS, unlike many federal entities dependent on annual appropriations, CCAD operates under a workingcapitalfund model, generating revenue through its services rather than relying on direct taxpayer funding, thereby supporting military readiness without contributing to the national debt; and

WHEREAS, CCAD functions as a high-performance industrial operation, adjusting its workforce and production levels based on customer demand while maintaining fiscal responsibility, efficiency, and a commitment to supporting warfighters with operationally ready aircraft; and

WHEREAS, CCAD is one of the largest employers in the Coastal Bend region, supporting thousands of direct and indirect jobs and generating significant economic activity for Corpus Christi and the State of Texas, with an estimated multibilliondollar annual economic impact; and

WHEREAS, current federal law under the 50/50 rule requires that no more than 50 percent of depotlevel maintenance funding be allocated to the private sector, ensuring that at least half of all such work is performed by the nation's organic industrial base— governmentowned, governmentoperated depots, arsenals, and shipyards; and

WHEREAS, the 50/50 law preserves wartime readiness and guarantees that facilities such as the Corpus Christi Army Depot receive consistent, predictable workloads necessary to maintain a highly skilled, fully qualified workforce capable of responding to national emergencies; and

WHEREAS, any reduction or loss of CCAD's mission would diminish military aviation readiness, reduce access to critical depotlevel maintenance capabilities, and have severe consequences for employees, families, businesses, and the broader Coastal Bend economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Corpus Christi strongly supports maintaining, strengthening, and expanding CCAD's mission to preserve national security, protect regional jobs, and sustain longterm economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of Corpus Christi respectfully requests that the United States Department of War enforce the federal 50/50 rule across all installations, ensuring that adequate nearterm repair contracts include steady and consistent workloads directed to the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD).

SECTION 2. The City of Corpus Christi urges the United States Congress to take the following actions in support of CCAD and national military readiness:

- Reinforce Right to Repair principles in all maintenancesourcing decisions to ensure that organic depotlevel capabilities, including CCAD, remain fully utilized and prioritized.
- Utilize the authority granted in the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), permitting CCAD to perform rotarywing repair for all military services, and formally designate CCAD as a primary rotarywing repair and reset node within the Department of War enterprise.
- Provide authority to write off unrecoverable capital investments associated with cancelled or withdrawn missions, preventing undue financial burden on CCAD's workingcapitalfund operations.
- Evaluate the application of Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) surcharges to reduce disproportionate cost impacts on depotlevel maintenance activities.
- Accelerate funding and authority for the next four phases of CCAD's Powertrain Facility modernization, expanding engine and powertrain repair capacity across the joint force and strengthening longterm aviation readiness.

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Nature Notes

The classic battle of Frog versus Toad

All toads are frogs, but are all frogs

By Hannah Beckett



Photo: European Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) & European Toad (*Bufo bufo*)
Credit: Thomas Brown, Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons

I've heard the saying "All toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads." This phrase can be a mind twister until you concentrate on the meaning behind it. Both frogs and toads are amphibians in the order Anura and are referred to as anurans. All members of this order are considered frogs. So, in essence, toad is a classification of frog.

Anurans are broken down phylogenetically into separate families. Members of the Ranidae family are considered to be true frogs, whereas members of the Bufonidae family are referred to as true toads. Other families of frogs and toads exist, but these two classifications hold the majority of anurans. While there are many similarities between frogs and toads, the differences often become obvious when you know what to look for.

One of the best ways to tell if the difference between a frog and a toad is their skin. Frogs have smooth and slimy skin. It is thin and permeable, allowing them to absorb water and oxygen directly through their skin. For the absorption to occur, they must stay moist. This is why we often see frogs in or very near a water source. A layer of mucus helps them keep their skin moist and gives them that slimy feeling. On the other hand, toads have a thicker, bumpy skin. This thick, dry skin helps them retain water in the dry terrestrial habitats they call home.

The structure of their legs also differs. Frogs typically have long, muscular hind legs that allow them to leap long distances compared to their size. Those legs also aid them in navigating under the water. Toads

have a squatty build with short hind legs better suited for walking or short hops. When approached, frogs are more likely to leap into the water, while toads are more likely to sit still and wait for the danger to pass.

While not an outwardly noticeable difference, the most significant differentiation between frogs and toads is their toxicity. All toads are naturally poisonous, while frogs are not. Even poison dart frogs do not produce their own natural poison, instead using toxins found in the insects they eat in the wild. Toads possess a special gland called a parotoid gland behind their eyes that secretes toxins. These toxins permeate their skin and act as a predator deterrent. This is why some animals' mouths will foam when they try to bite a toad.

Despite their differences, both frogs and toads face habitat loss through both urban development and the pollution of their habitats. Anurans are important indicator species. Their presence and health indicate an ecosystem's health. They can't live in polluted habitats and are sensitive to changes in their environment. The presence of frogs or toads is a sign the habitat is healthy, while a sudden change in their presence can indicate the area has become polluted.

One way to help protect these amphibians is to make space for them in our yards and community green spaces. For example, you can place flowerpots or slabs of tree bark in shaded, mulched areas to create a moist daytime refuge for the amphibians.

Around cont. from A1

registered and 8649 of them are right here *Around The Island*. Remember if you don't vote you forfeit your right to complain.

Let's hear from the Winter Texans

You know the Winter Texans are in town when copies of the *Island Moon* are as scarce as teeth in the front row of a Willie Nelson show. Each year we welcome our Winter Texan friends to augment the stories we locals have been sharing and embellishing over the past year. Each week we feature Traveling Moon photos as Islanders spread out across the world and take a copy of the Moon along, so now we are going to look through the other end of the binoculars and ask our Winter Texan readers, who are in fact traveling, to send photos of themselves and the Moon as they move *Around The Island*. Take a shot of you and your friends and send them to editor@island-moon.com and we will print them in these pages. And for the writers send us a story about where you are from and how you found our little sandbar and what you like to do here. Come on now all you aspiring writers. You can send a copy back to your friends shivering up there in the Frozen North and tell them what the temperature is here just to rub it in a little bit. Or you can tell them to view it each week on theislandmoonnewspaper on Facebook or at islandmoon.com.

Barefoot Parade

Just as a reminder the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade is on for Saturday, February 28. See the map in this issue as the route has been extended to accommodate the larger crowds. You can watch live on YouTube at *Island Moon Live* where it will be live streamed. You can also watch the weekly *Island Moon* radio show on *Island Moon*

Live each week from 11 a.m. to noon or stop by Doc's Seafood & Steaks and attend the show there. Starting next Thursday, February 26, it will also be broadcast on KEYS AM radio. That show will be split into two one-hour segments from 11 a.m. to noon, and then from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. after the simulcast of the noon news from KRIS on KEYS. Tune in or stop by to hear about all things Island.

That's all for now look for us in the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade and get out there and enjoy the Chamber of Commerce Weather and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Box Jellyfish



Jace with a box jellyfish

While beachcombing this week along the Texas coast, I had one of those "wait... really?" moments that makes exploring the shoreline so much fun. Tucked among the usual sargassum, shells, and windblown debris were a couple of unmistakable gelatinous visitors: box jellyfish. Yes, box jellyfish in Texas.

These particular jellies had a translucent, cube-shaped bell with four pink tentacles extending from each corner, a striking look that sets them apart from the more familiar round moon jellies. That square bell is exactly how box jellyfish get their name.

Unlike most jellyfish that simply drift with the currents, box jellies are active swimmers. They can actually steer through the water. Even more impressive, they have clusters of eyes that detect light, shadows, and movement. They don't have a brain, but their nervous system is advanced enough to help them hunt small fish and shrimp, stunning their prey with venom before pulling it in for a meal.

And yes, that venom works on people, too.

Stings from box jellyfish along the Texas coast are painful and can cause burning, redness, and itching. In the name of science — and perhaps questionable judgment — I briefly tested the sting on my arm. I'd rate it about a five out of 10 on the pain scale. Do not try this yourself! Even washed-up jellyfish can still sting because those microscopic venom cells can fire long after the animal appears lifeless. The rule is simple: look, don't touch.

Box jellyfish are most common during warmer months and often wash ashore after strong winds or shifting tides. They play an important ecological role and are even a favorite snack of leatherback sea turtles.

The Texas Coast is full of surprises, especially when those surprises have tentacles.

Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears on YouTube and you can follow Jace at harterresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harterresearch), Instagram ([@harterresearch](https://instagram.com/harterresearch)) and X ([@HarteResearch](https://twitter.com/HarteResearch)) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



Box jellyfish on the beach at South Packery



Box jellyfish on a board

The Art of Island Life

The Stories in Art

By Melissa Mitchell

People like to think they buy art with their eyes.

And yes—color, texture, and composition matter. But after years of watching people stand in front of artwork, ask questions, circle back, and finally decide, I can tell you this: people don't buy art just because it matches the sofa.

They also buy it with their ears—and their heart.

They buy it because something about it speaks to them.

Art Has Always Carried Meaning

Long before galleries and white walls, art existed to tell stories. Cave paintings recorded hunts and survival. Religious art passed down belief and tradition. Portraits preserved lineage and legacy. Folk art captured daily life. Art has never been just decoration. The visual draws us in, but the story gives us a reason to stay. Even now, when someone asks, "Can you tell me about this piece?" what they're really asking is, "Why does this matter?"

I see that question play out every day in the gallery. A visitor pauses in front of a piece. They like it, but they're unsure. Then they hear about the artist's process, what inspired the work, or why certain choices were made. Something shifts. The piece stops being just something to look at and becomes something to connect with. It ties into a memory, a feeling, or a part of their own story. That's often the moment the decision happens.

Rarely does someone say, "I bought it because it fit the space." Much more often I hear them say, "I couldn't stop thinking about it."

A Modern Example We Still Recognize

You don't have to look far to see how deeply the story shapes the way we experience art. Consider Georgia O'Keeffe. Her paintings are instantly recognizable—bold florals, desert landscapes, bones set against a wide open sky. But it's the story behind the work that deepens the connection.

O'Keeffe's decision to leave New York for New Mexico wasn't simply a change of scenery. It was a declaration of independence. Her work became inseparable from her life: the solitude, the vastness, the refusal to be defined by anyone else's expectations. Knowing that context changes how people experience her paintings. They're no longer just beautiful—they're intentional, personal, and rooted in place.

The art itself didn't change.

The story surrounding it did.

And that dynamic isn't reserved for art history.

We see it today.



Wade Koniakowsky with his Signature Wave Painting

Wade Koniakowsky

Wade Koniakowsky has long been known for his wave art—powerful, immersive, and unmistakably coastal. Collectors recognize his work immediately. But in his latest series, *Night Ryder*, he didn't abandon what made his work recognizable. He evolved it.

Select works from this new series are currently available at Evoke, for those who would like to experience the depth of this evolution firsthand. The familiar wave remains, but it's reimagined—an abstract interplay of realism and atmosphere. Darker palettes. Layered textures. A mood that feels more introspective than purely energetic.

In this series, the shift isn't something you're told—it's something you feel. The background moves in layered, muted tones and atmosphere, while the realistic wave rises through it. The result feels raw and organic, less about spectacle and more about presence.

Again, the visual draws you in.

The story invites you to stay.

Why Story Still Matters

An artist's story is never separate from the work—it's woven into it. How someone began. Why certain subjects keep returning. What themes surface again and again. These aren't marketing details—they're context. And context creates connection.

People don't just collect art. They collect meaning.

From ancient walls to modern galleries, art has always carried stories—of people, places, beliefs, and moments in time. The medium may change, but the human desire to connect does not. So when a particular piece stays with you—lingers in your thoughts or feels impossible to walk away from—it's rarely just about the image. It's the story it tells, and the way it intersects with your own. That's where art stops being something that you just look at and becomes something that lives with you.

The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and coastal reflections. Have a story to share or a cause close to your heart? I'd love to hear from you at contact@melissamitchellart.com



Another Koniakowsky wave

Port A Mardi Gras 2026

Photos by Ronnie Narmour



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History Cont. from A1

the face of the oncoming hurricane of 1933 to get belongings before the storm hit. They began the drive back through the teeth of the storm.

By Louis Rawalt,

Fortune was kind to us that night. By following our recently made tracks back up the center of the island, we laboriously made our way to the north end of Padre. There we found the waters of the Laguna Madre lapping over the plank troughs of the causeway. Could we make it? The choice had to be made quickly. We would try. So I nosed the Model-A onto the planks, and we inched our way over the water. Wind tore at us, and rain poured down in torrents.

In was daylight by then. A liquid, gray daylight in which everything blended and wavered like the scenes in an underwater film. At the ship channel we found that the swing bridge had been torn partly loose. The ends of it were two feet higher than the planks of the causeway. A barge was anchored nearby with several men aboard. They came to our rescue. Climbing from the barge to the causeway, they lifted the Ford and set it on the bridge; then they set it down at the other end. Thus, we finally reached the comparative safety of the mainland.

Later we found that during the next hour, the causeway was reduced to a total wreck. The planks were torn lose and flung through the air. Some of them were found weeks later in the mesquite forests of the million-acre King Ranch, twenty miles away.

That hurricane left devastation everywhere it moved. Much of Corpus Christi was a shambles. Padre Island was cleared of everything for a hundred miles. The contours of the beach were changed and there were thirty channels cut all the way from the Gulf of Mexico to the Laguna Madre.

Within a week after the storm, we were back on the island. We got there by loading our car on an improvised raft and poling it across Laguna Madre. Driving the beach was hazardous. It was stripped with deep ruts and covered with logs and debris. The passes were filling up with sand, and were able to drive through them, although we went through water two feet deep at times.

At the site of our former shack there was nothing. Nothing, that is, except an old ice-box half sunk in the sand. Shorty's tent had caught around the ice-box, and on examination showed its only damage to be a small rent. In searching about the campsite, he found all the things he had left with the exception of a small stew kettle. Viola and I found, as I have said, nothing. Out of all the supplies, the equipment, the bedding, the clothing, and what we regarded as our treasures, there absolutely was not a sign of anything. And Shorty had found everything he owned but a thirty-five cent kettle!

The ways of the sea are strange. They say that whatever it takes away from you, it brings back. I'm inclined to think that it does. The next few months the tide carried in the lumber and piling for us to build a bigger and stronger house. This time we build sixty-five miles from the north end of Padre.

(Editor's note: The following paragraph was written into the original manuscript but then redacted. We include it here.)

That year the "Nicaragua" a Mexican freighter beached on the Gulf at our front door. From her we salvaged doors, windows and portholes which became additions to our shack. The boilers of the Nicaragua still lie in the edge of the surf, and for years have been a landmark to fishermen.

Next week: Living on Padre Island after the storm.

Going Native

Meadow Pink or Texas Star

(*Sabatia campestris*)

By Ed Proffitt



February is winding down and soon Barefoot Mardi Gras will be here (yea!) and then Spring Break (oh, sigh). Great birding with spring migrations, and cool events such as the Whooping Crane festival (this coming weekend). It's also time to break out your gardening tools or if you prefer go wandering around trails to enjoy the natural scenic beauty of Padre Island, Mustang Island, and the broader Corpus Christi area. It's a grand time of year to just drive around with your windows open and enjoy plants (especially the natives!) in other people's yard, along the roadside, and in our parks and reserves.

A very pretty wildflower for today's discussion is *Sabatia campestris*, commonly referred to as Meadow Pink or Texas Star. This is one of a group of related species of the genus *Sabatia* that occur in mid and southern states, although sometimes found as far north as New England, where perhaps it was introduced. The plant is an annual to biannual and once established will readily self-seed after the mature plant dies. It has been recorded from Padre Island National Seashore where it can

persist in fairly dry sand or loam soils, but does prefer additional moisture especially in the fullness of summer. It can also be found along roadsides and in other disturbed habitats.

The plant can be a foot or so tall and has flowers that can be a couple of inches in diameter. It is most easily established from seed in the late summer or fall, but can be started other times of the year as well. It'll typically bloom in late spring. Marsh pink is often pollinated by solitary bees, but when pollinators are scarce, it can successfully self-pollinate. Seeds can be collected from fruit capsules when they are dry and turning light tan. The seeds can be purchased too. Some sources suggest that germination is facilitated by light and also cold stratification.

I've seen a report that a bitter tea can be made from this plant, but would not recommend you trying that without checking further as there's not many references to it. Not to mention the term 'bitter' doesn't make me want to go subjecting this pretty plant to steeping in hot water!



Beach Ball Celebrates



Beach Ball Brewing Company celebrated Mardi Gras with the release of their new brew Thank God it's Padre. Appropriately, Stevie Start played the song he penned at the event. Photos By Debbie Noble



Bird Dog loose at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and the birds and birders were not happy! Photo By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Perrin's On the Water Opens



May Mendoza along with Ryan & Michelle Perrin celebrated the official opening of Perrin's On the Water with a ribbon cutting by the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. Photos By Jan Rankin



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La Posada Foundation presented the US Naval Sea Cadets with \$5000 this week.



Tern Rookery Island Protection Project Begins

Barges seen east of JFK Causeway



Barges have arrived along the east side of the JFK Causeway as work to restore Tern Island in the Laguna Madre has begun. The island is located in the Laguna Madre and over time it has been steadily eroding due to wind and wave action, threatening its ability to support nesting birds. To address the impacts of erosion, project partners will construct approximately 1,000 linear feet of riprap rock breakwater around the perimeter of the island. The breakwater will reduce wave energy, slow erosion, and increase the island's resilience to future environmental stressors. Imported fill material will also be placed behind the breakwater, increasing the island footprint and available nesting habitat. Once complete, the island's footprint is expected to increase from approximately 1.5 acres to 2.5 acres.

The island is owned by the Texas General Land Office (TGLO), leased to Audubon Texas for the protection and management of colonial nesting waterbirds, and managed annually by the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) Coastal Bird Program. Project design and pre-construction monitoring were completed by HDR Engineering, and CBBEP will continue to monitor and manage the site following construction to ensure long-term success.



Secret Admirer By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup February 28th

Things are moving along pretty fast these days. While next weekend is indeed the Mardi Gras Parade, it is also the 31st annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Clean Up at the Padre Island National Seashore on February 28th. This continues to be the world's largest single day beach cleanup, with upwards of 1,000 people joining us to pick up one of the most difficult beaches to access. The "Big Shell" area is typically between the 20-mile marker and the 50 mile marker. This area of beach, also referred to as the "Devils Elbow" by progenitors like Louis Rawalt, is an area where two longshore currents collide, bringing in flotsam from all over the Gulf and sometimes world.

Please be at the Malaquite Visitors Center by 8am the day of the cleanup, wear sturdy shoes and bring your 4X4 vehicle and a few friends. The entrance fee is waived that day for volunteers (no need to buy a beach parking pass for this event) and waters and supplies are provided. T-shirts and pizza/hotdogs are provided after the event. It is possible to make both the cleanup and the Mardi Gras parade, which is my goal. I will get y'all loyal readers a reminder and more instructions next week.

CCA Banquet

Another event that is coming up rather quickly is the 48th annual Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Corpus Christi Chapter fundraising banquet on March 5th. We are again pulling together a ton of great raffle prizes, silent auction, blackboard auction, and live auction items. The food is always off the chain, drinks flow, and it's a great time to network with other like-minded business and conservation professionals. It's a great time to pick up some awesome artwork or a trip of a lifetime, and as Randy says, "It's for the fish!" More next week, but you'd better get your tickets asap, as we're getting close to selling out again this year.

Arrival of the Spring Tides

The tides are starting to work their way up finally after the winter lows. This will start to push fish up on the flats and into the back lakes and pockets which should start to mark actual spring tides. I'm looking for-

ward to getting out and doing some fishing, and Joey likely has all the tips and tricks you need to be successful. Although it looks like we get yet another Saturday night cold front that ruins fishing on Sunday. AI can't even explain why we get cold fronts on the weekend, which has always befuddled me.

Arrival of the early birds

The birds are on their way back from across the Gulf. Those folks who have purple martin houses are usually the ones that sound the alarm, and they have been spotted on the upper Texas coast, Louisiana, and Florida in the past week or so. You can get on BirdCast and watch them return to our territories and places north. The hummingbirds should be along shortly as well as the southeast wind cranks up.

These "early birds" always take a chance against a late season cold front that could leave them in cold weather with no food, or even worse, hit them right before they complete the flight across the gulf and they literally fall out. It's kind of early in the season, and due to the drought, I don't see a whole lot of flowers around yet. I pulled my hummingbird feeders out and got a couple of them filled up and hung the other night. Remember, it's one cup of sugar with four cups of water, and you can do a double batch and keep it in a pitcher in your fridge, so you can keep a fresh supply handy. I also just fill it a little above the base plate instead of the whole thing early in the season.

Island Mobility Plan

The city council approved the first reading of the Island Mobility Plan the other day at city hall on the consent agenda. I'm wondering if during the second reading on the 24th if there will be additional discussion and questions. Hopefully they will let Keren finally present it to council and the public. You just never know these days. It's that time of year where we can get out on the water and we did a supply run down to the cabin the other day. Looking forward to getting out there again, y'all drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



The cabin boat unloading crew was hard at work



Cabin sunset

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Tidal Return

This year we have not seen the lowest of all time tides, but they have lasted quite a long time. This is natural for this time of year and very important to the seasonal circle of life. Our rich growing season here and special lagoon Benefits Sea grass growth most of the year. These sea grasses grow out to their full potential and actually choke up the bay system, limiting tidal flow, filling up sand pockets, and trapping heat increasing water temperatures during the hottest of months. These low tides at the coldest times of year kill a lot of the shallow grass. This allows hard north winds to clear out some of our fertile flats, melt the dead grass into fertilizer, and prepare the bottom of the bay for a fresh start to grow new and beneficial sea grass every spring. Just as a farmer has to turn his fields to get good yield in the growing season, we need these low tides to make way for the explosion of Spring break is about to happen up in those fast shallow flats.

We have been busy having the times of our lives, catching loads of specs out on the deep drop offs in the Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay. Soft plastics fished along these breaks between 2-4ft have been magical. Also along the edges of the ICW, we have found great numbers of trout and reds along the edges of the west side of the channel. I have enjoyed using my HUMMINGBIRD SIDE SCAN combined with my trolling motor to visually hunt schools of gamefish along these deep water edges. You can really see how the best fish move into certain areas that have the most bait and warmer water temperatures. From the boat we are using a 1/8-1/4oz jig head with a host of various soft plastics to fit the fish's likes. Moving your choice between colors bright, darks, and natural colors is a good place to start until you find a preference. Soft rod strokes are working better than fast quick and jerky movements of the baits. Take your time and cast to each sand



Mr Tim landed this giant 28" trout drifting fishing the King Ranch Shoreline this week with soft plastics.

pocket and grass line, swimming the bait slow and lifelike.

We are already seeing a slight increase in tide as we have had onshore flow all week. Before this coming New Moon I would suspect that we receive a good push of tide if not our first real BULL TIDE of the year. With the flow that we have received in just the last few days, a flood of small baitfish, shrimp, hardheads, whiting and sand trout, along with millions of tiny creatures flowing back into the bays from their winter retreats. This means that bait fisherman will be back on catfish and stingray patrol, but gamefish are following all of that bait back into the Lagoon and Baffin! The next few months are some incredible spring fishing! Get a jump on it now and fall in love with the reason you live, visit, and play on the Island! Pick up that phone and let me know you want to spend the day building lifetime memories and learning more about fishing in the place you live and love! Follow all of our fishing on Facebook at JOEY FARAH'S BACKWATER FISHING! 361-442-8145



The Spring Tides have the Black Drum gathered up and filling fish boxes up and down the ICW canal, live shrimp on the bottom.



Whiting are some of the best eating fish we have! Right now they are plentiful in the surf and jetty passes. Small hooks and bait is a sure fire way to catch them.

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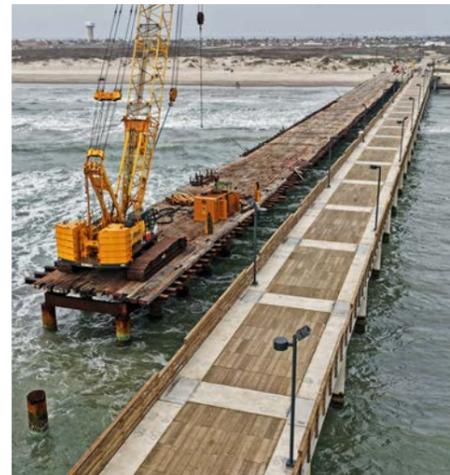
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Removal of the construction trestle is underway at the newly rebuild Bob Hall Pier. The Pier reopens on February 24th of this month.



A Long Strange Trip Part II

By Chris Jordan

On the day after Thanksgiving 1987, I was surprised to learn it was not against the rules for a young man to spend the night on the floor of an on-campus dorm room at the all-women's Mount Holyoke College. I just had to be escorted by a student when I was not in the dorm room. After I thought about it, this should not have been unexpected at a college that had a reputation for being attended by radicals, lesbians, and radical lesbians.

I was visiting my friend Stacy and her Resident Advisor was fine with me crashing there until the end of the semester. But on this Black Friday morning, Stacy and I had big plans to drive my 1971 VW Westfalia Campmobile from Western Massachusetts and straight into Manhattan. I'd never been to New York before and Rudy Giuliani had not yet been mayor — a dangerous situation given that we were headed straight for Times Square.

The long-throw floor shifter in the campmobile was further hindered by an incessantly difficult shift into second gear. After navigating the streets of Manhattan in a not-necessarily-nimble VW van, negotiating the traffic, the lights, the delivery trucks, the fearless pedestrians, the cabs, and eliciting the horn-fueled ire of numerous native drivers, we ended up parallel parking in the street at Washington Square Park. We were at least a couple dozen blocks from Times Square, but at least we found a parking spot. We hadn't even gotten out of the van when a dude was walking toward the van, hollering at us.

Most people get the DEFCON (Defense Readiness Condition) levels backwards. It's a moot point in this instance because I was at DEFCON 2 1/2 (and for those keeping score, DEFCON 5 is the lowest and 1 the highest), so I was equally ready for fight or flight. Turns out the guy just needed a jump. His name was Mitch and the battery in his Jeep was dead. He was parked just a few car lengths away, but I was definitely not giving up my hard-earned spot. Fortunately I didn't have to: I had equipped my van with an easily-removable, auxiliary battery just to run my home hi-fi sound system and an electric blanket.



Mitch Perl, NYC mover and shaker

This guy Mitch had the strangest accent I had ever heard. Turns out he spent half his childhood somewhere in Kentucky and the other half in London. Mitch was a proper NYC club scene cat who had cut his teeth as a bouncer and bartender at the legendary Flat Iron District club, *Danceteria*. To put this in some perspective, Madonna, Sade, and The Beastie Boys all worked regular jobs and debuted their musical careers at *Danceteria*. Mitch thought my van and its jump-ready portable battery were cool.



Danceteria, NYC

I guess Mitch thought Stacy and I were cool, too; he invited us to his club that night for drinks on him. When I confessed we were underage, Mitch lapsed into the most grotesque eye roll I have ever seen. Our new pal explained to us that he had recently graduated from *Danceteria* and opened his own club, *Forty Worth*. Apparently Mitch just needed to move his Jeep for parking compliance purposes, so he asked if we'd give him a ride to work since he was now late. So Mitch piled into the back of the Campmobile and we dropped him off at his club in TriBeCa. So much for our parking spot.

We eventually found another parking spot and hoofed it to Times Square. New York was up to its eyeballs in AIDS activism in 1987, but if Times Square had ever been more decadent than it was on this Black Friday, you would've had a hard time convincing me. There was all kinds of pornography including live sex shows. People were buying, selling, and using drugs like it was all legal. And there were beat cops casually strolling through it all. Disney had definitely not yet moved into the neighborhood.

It was starting to get dark, we had wandered in and out and back into Times Square proper, and we were getting hungry. Of course I'd had a bagel before, but I'd never had a New York City bagel. And I'd had pizza before, but I'd never had New York City pizza. Ditto for hot dogs: but I'd definitely never had a dirty water dog. But at least I had this going for me: subscriptions to the *Sunday New York Times* and the weekly *Village Voice* since I was an even younger teenager, so I knew where I wanted to go. Plus I had some very good insight from an insider.

My roommate and bestie back in Texas, Glen Gekow, was a bonafide New York Jew. What I hadn't gleaned about New York from reading, I'd learned from Glen. He gave me tips on how to order street food, how to eat street food, how not to get mugged, and what to do when you are getting mugged.

Stacy and I ended up at Famous Original Ray's Pizza, arguably the best spot for us to each order a plain slice. Thanks to Glen, we also knew how to eat it, which is one of those IYKYK kinds of things and critically involves — among other things — knowing whether to dab or not to dab.

Bagel Buffet was not my first choice, but it was convenient. There was neither time nor money for Carnegie Deli. We each ordered lox and a schmear. You don't even mention the bagel when ordering: it's assumed, duh. Glen taught me that, too.

The hot dogs were easy. Any cart would do because they all served Sabrett franks. I ordered two with everything. In this case, "everything" is mustard, sauerkraut, and red onion sauce.

Our hunger was more than satiated by the NYC grab-and-go trifecta. And a good thing too, because we still had to meet up with Mitch, drink at his hipster spot for free, and — eventually — make it back to Mount Holyoke College where Stacy would have to closely escort me to my spot on her dorm room floor.

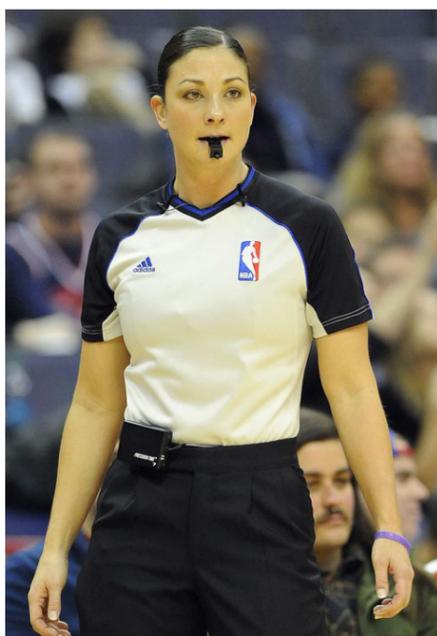
Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Dotson's Note: The following article is actually taken from three different articles about the trials and tribulations of a rookie NBA basketball official, who happens to be a woman. Violet Palmer, another female NBA basketball official, is a friend who I have known since she first started officiating basketball at the collegiate level. Violet's career as a basketball official in the NBA has received very little publicity...the NBA has pretty well kept her out of the public eye, and those who have been critical of her officiating abilities have very carefully avoided any comments regarding gender.

Lauren Holtkamp Unfazed On Being NBA's Third Full-Time Female Referee
Lauren Holtkamp had just finished school and a basketball career at Division II Drury University in Springfield, Mo., a decade ago and contemplated what to do before pursuing a master's degree in divinity.



Lauren Holtkamp

A former teammate's dad invited Holtkamp to a local referees meeting, and in 2004, she refereed her first game, a middle-school contest in Springfield. Ten years later, Holtkamp, 33, is now a staff official for the NBA, becoming the third woman to ref NBA games full-time, joining Dee Kantner (now the WNBA's supervisor of officials) and Violet Palmer (an NBA referee since 1997).

"Part of the satisfaction of earning this opportunity has to do with the fact that I've been able to stay committed to the work and put the work first and trust the system and that's what matters," Holtkamp said, "It doesn't matter who is doing the work as long as the work is high quality. There is a great deal of satisfaction in that." Holtkamp is one of three officials to make the jump from the NBA Development League to the top league this season. Dedric Taylor and Justin Van Duyne also joined the 63-person roster.



Violet Palmer

She said she appreciates what Kantner and Palmer have accomplished. "There is a kinship and certainly a sense of support and collegiality." But Holtkamp is emphatic that she is a referee who just happens to be a woman.

"I would say really from day one when I got hired into the D-League, I've been treated as a referee as far as my performance," she said. "It's been about my performance and the quality of my work."

Posted!

A link has been posted to your Facebook feed.

Women Referees in the NBA

Referees Union Says "Chris Paul's Comments about Female Referee Were Personal and Unprofessional"

The union representing NBA referees defended official Lauren Holtkamp on Friday after "personal and unprofessional comments" by Clippers guard Chris Paul. Paul criticized the rookie referee Thursday, saying she might not be ready for the big leagues after six seasons in the minors. Lee Seham, general counsel of the National Basketball Referees Association, said in a statement his group reviewed Holtkamp's calls and "deems them fully justified." "Furthermore," he added, "the NBRA deplores the personal and unprofessional comments made by Chris Paul. She belongs."

Paul was called for a technical foul by Holtkamp during the Clippers' 105-94 loss in Cleveland. Following a free throw by Cleveland with 10:17 left in the third quarter, the Clippers were attempting to inbound quickly when Holtkamp stepped in. Paul questioned her and was slapped with the technical.

"The tech I got was ridiculous," Paul said. "That's terrible. There's no way that can be a technical. We try to get the ball out fast every time down the court. When we did that, she said, 'Uh-uh.' I said, 'Why uh-uh?' and she gave me a technical. That's ridiculous. If that's the case, this might not be for her."

Paul is president of the NBA Players Association, and his questioning a referee's readiness is a common complaint the league hears about rookie officials. He likely will be fined for public criticism of an official.*



The 34-year-old Holtkamp spent six seasons in the NBA Development League, working its championship series the last two years. A former player at Division II Drury University, she also officiated nine NBA regular-season games before her promotion to the full-time staff.

Violet Palmer is the league's other currently active female referee, having worked about 900 regular-season games during a career that's now in its 18th season.

Paul and the Clippers, who were assessed five technical fouls by Holtkamp's crew Thursday, visited the Toronto Raptors, Friday.

***Chris Paul Fined \$25K for His Technical Called By Referee Lauren Holtkamp**

NBA star Chris Paul has been called for many technical fouls through the years. His latest is drawing perhaps the most notice, and his criticism of the female referee who called it has drawn a \$25,000 fine from the league.



Chris Paul

The conversation around the technical has centered on what Paul said about rookie referee Lauren Holtkamp, one of two current active female officials in the NBA. The NBA said Paul was being fined for "public criticism of officiating." The league's statement announcing the fine didn't mention the official's gender.



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Gene's Corner More Random Thoughts

By Gene Saegert

Sorry I have to go there again, but it has been a slow week. Well my mind wanders a lot, which I am sure that has not gone unnoticed. That happens a lot, particularly when I am doing my morning walk/run. Across from my running track is a Dollar General. Well I thought as I was looking at the sign how handy it would be if I ever had enough money to buy out the Dollar General store I could save a lot of money for signage because I could just cover the *ral* on the signs and call it *Dollar Gene*. This brings to mind another problem with my name. Gene just rhymes with too many things. Just to name a few, Mean Gene, Gene the Bean, and seemingly the most often used was Gene, Gene, the Dancing Machine. I didn't know that at first, but then I was told it was a character from the old Gong Show and when I looked that up, it wasn't particularly endearing comment.

After I sold my business in New Braunfels and moved down here, I seriously thought I would change my name to Gene' with the accent over the last *e* and tell people I was from France, but as usual like a lot of my ideas, that didn't fly with my wife. Well so much for that...on to some other random thoughts that my wife shot down also which involved my bucket list, I will just mention those that were rejected, because she said they were just stupid. She may have been right, you can be the judge.

#1 Go to the library and say that I can't find the Thesaurus; could it be under a different name?

#2 Go to the Library and ask for the non-reading section because I don't want my thoughts to be disturbed. To that, my wife replied "I am sure it is a little too late for that."

#3 This is my personal favorite. Go to a restaurant and (this one depends solely on circumstance) and see that all the tables are empty except one which just happens to have a nice looking lady occupying it and say "I am sorry, all of the other tables are not occupied, may I sit with you?"

Ok this from me and all of the other seniors out there. Some of you youngsters out there think that you are tough. Well you don't even begin to be as tough as we were. When you ride your bikes and skateboards you wear helmets, knee pads, shin guards and safety glasses. When we rode our bikes we would remove the chain guards, and the fenders and take of the handle grips. We didn't have the money to buy wood, or anything to make ramps or the like. Our passengers would sit on the handle bars which made it almost impossible to see or steer. Our bicycles had only one speed and we liked it! We would try to ride over anything that was just laying around the yard. We had terrible wrecks, got bruised, skinned, broke finger and toes. While we were laying on the ground our moms would just go get Iodine and Band-Aids apply them and pat us on the butt and say okay you are good to go. I am pretty sure I died at least twice at the age of 12 and my mom just put on the Iodine and Band-Aids and sent me on my way. I am guessing no youngsters today have even seen a bottle of Iodine. I still have one and just to read the label is scary. The label says, "Danger, Poison, keep out of the reach of children" and actually has a picture of a skull and crossbones on it. We survived! Next week I will talk about seniors and their perks. Some of them are awesome.

Thought for the day: If you have a chance to walk a mile in someone else's shoes, do it. You will be a long ways off and you will have their shoes.



Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

My shortcuts are legendary. Whether cross country or cross town, I am always looking for ways to get from point A to point B quicker. My wife and children will be quick to add that my shortcuts are often longcuts!

It is in my genes. My father was also renowned for his shortcuts. I remember a family trip through the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. At some point we found ourselves on a narrow logging road in a Winnebago motor home!

There were no shortcuts for Jesus in his life. That is good news for humanity. There are no shortcuts to following Jesus. That is challenging news in these anxious times.

So many of us face tribulations and trials in our families and relationships, with our health and the process of aging. On top of these and others, our feeds and screens are full of issues that nurse our anxiety, fear, and anger.

The feelings of powerlessness abound, crushing our souls. Fear takes root and the sour fruits of discouragement, frustration, disgust, apathy, bitterness, and others sprout. We look for the shortcuts that will give us satisfaction of our wants and desires. We sing a self-aggrandizing song of control and self-sufficiency. We isolate ourselves into tribal camps of like opinion, clutching to our self-justified certainties. Group narcissism spreads like a cancer.

Jesus had an opportunity to take a shortcut. As he began his ministry, he was led into the wilderness to be tempted. Theologically, it was a replay of the temptation for the first humans.

Jesus was tempted to serve himself and put himself first. He was tempted to use his power and authority to meet his personal needs and desires. Me or even us first is never what Jesus is about.

Jesus was tempted to seek power, glory, and fame. He was tempted to embrace what many would have expected of him. He was tempted to rely upon might and rule. He was tempted to avoid self-giving and self-emptying.

Jesus was tempted to test the promises of God. His vulnerability was being targeted. He was tempted to see if God would really keep him safe. Was God trustworthy? This was the essence of the temptation for those first humans.

The story of Jesus in the wilderness is crucial. It is the story of the reboot of humanity. It is the choice that brings hope and deliverance to humanity. There were no shortcuts. We are not enchained to our brokenness and death.

Lent is a season to follow Jesus into the wilderness. We recognize and confess the appeal of the same temptations in our lives. Lent invites us to embrace our humanity. As humans we hunger. As humans we are vulnerable. As humans we seek power. Yet, as humans we are also loved by God. There is another way.

Temptations are almost always based upon legitimate wants and needs. We need sustenance, intimacy, purpose, and security. We crave control and we seek deliverance. However, Jesus has rebooted our human lives away from self to God's love.

In these days of powerlessness Jesus shows us a different path, the path to joy and life lived deeply.

In Death Valley, California, there is a place known as Dante's View. From this spot you can look down to the lowest spot in the continental United States, Bad Water, 200 feet below sea level. From the same spot you can look up to the highest peak in the continental United States, Mt Whitney at 14,500 feet.

One path leads to the lowest. The other path leads to the highest. From Dante's View any movement must be in one direction or the other. There are no shortcuts. The easier trip may appear to be the downhill trek. The uphill path is one of trust. It is a path of self-giving and self-denial. It is the harder task of love. The path made possible by Jesus. There are no shortcuts.

Each Sunday a bunch of humans gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortuna Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page.

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger. pastor@islandpresby.com

Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

Movement in sale of properties from \$350,000-\$700,000

It's been another productive week in the Padre Island real estate market with continued movement across multiple property types.

Over the past seven days, we currently have no new pending homes; however, three homes successfully closed. Two of those sales fell within the \$300,000-\$375,000 price range, while the third sold around the \$750,000 mark. It's important to note that the higher-priced property had been on the market for over a year, highlighting the importance of patience and strategic positioning in today's market.

We are seeing encouraging movement with six properties currently in the option period,

ranging from \$350,000 to \$700,000. This includes one condo, three detached homes, and two townhomes — a segment where we have not seen consistent activity in quite some time.

Overall, the market continues to show steady improvement week by week. Homes are still going under contract, and we are beginning to see renewed movement in the condo and townhome sector, signaling positive momentum for the Island market.

Stay tuned for next week's update as we continue to monitor trends and activity across Padre Island.

Beach Parking Permits going to \$20 in 2027

The cost of Beach Parking Permits on Padre and Mustang islands will go from the current \$12 to \$20 in January 2027 after a vote by the Corpus Christi City Council this week.

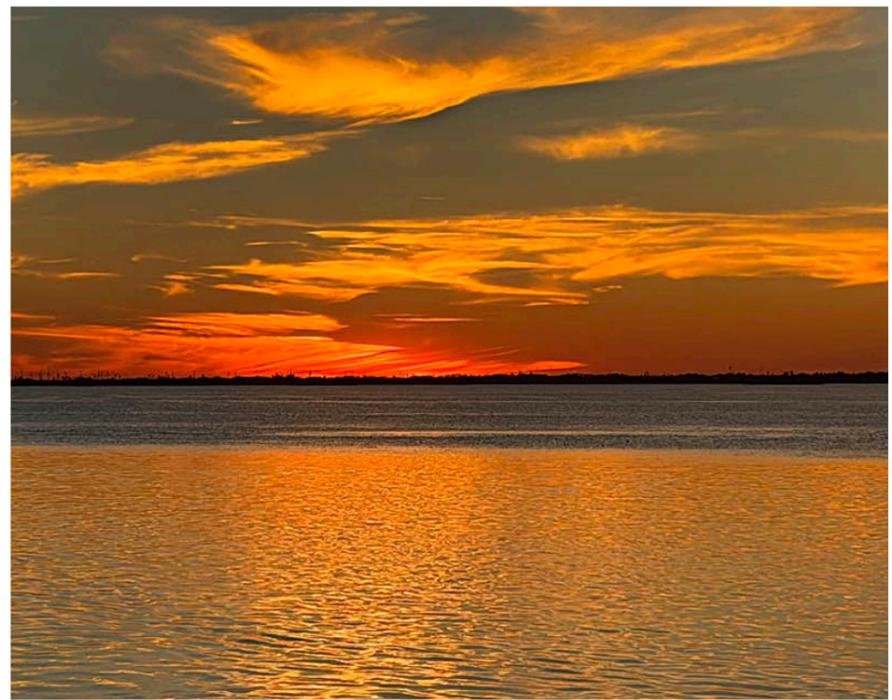
The hike is the first increase in the cost of the permits in more than a decade and the increase in funds will be used to maintain the beaches under the jurisdiction of the City of Port Aransas, the City of Corpus Christi, and Nueces County. A second change will be in the revenue distribution model under which Nueces County will receive 16% of the permit sales physically sold within the Corpus Christi area and 16% of the permit sales physically sold within

the Port Aransas city limits, Port Aransas will receive 84% of the permit sales physically sold within the Port Aransas city limits, the City of Corpus Christi will receive 84% of the permit sales physically sold within the areas of Corpus Christi.

Under the current agreement the funds collected by all three entities are collected then redistributed according to the linear feet of beach maintained by each rather than by a percent of sales. The City of Port Aransas and Nueces County Commission have previously approved the rate change which still must be approved by the Texas General Land Office which is expected.



Great Blue Herons at Rockport Rookery. By Robert Holt



Padre Island Sunset By Laura Bennett

Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

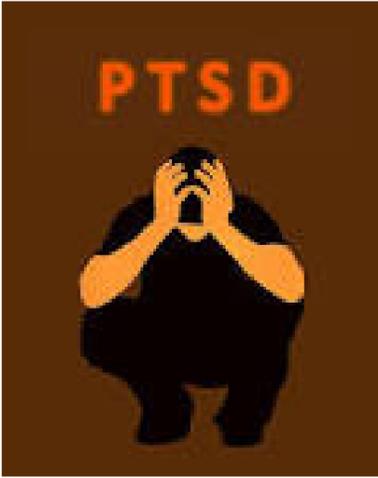
PTSD and the Code



By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: The following article is a follow-up to the Veterans articles and the Brain Waves article which have been published in previous issues of The Island Moon. Thanks to Mike Coppock, a freelance writer who lives in Oklahoma, for much of the information contained in this article. Also thanks to Islanders Diane and Jim Hall for their interest and assistance.

What Weight Should PTSD Carry In Criminal Justice Cases?



While being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), veteran Warren Davis was arrested in Oklahoma City in November 2014 for threatening to take hostages at a car dealership for repossessing his car. Five months earlier in nearby Tulsa, veteran Cody Young was killed by police during a standoff after he fired a rifle. Young at the time was seeking treatment for PTSD at a local VA hospital.

The Washington Post's Greg Kaffe highlighted the case of Army Staff/Sergeant Robert Carlson, who suffers from PTSD, in an article this past September. "After three tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, 40 months of combat for his country, Carlson was found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and is serving an eight-year sentence in a military prison. Soon after threatening his wife, he emptied his pistol in a blind rage, striking a neighboring garage, an apartment building, and knocking out the headlight of a police SUV in Fairbanks, Alaska, in July 2013."

A significant percentage of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans may be suffering from PTSD. But it's a number people are struggling to get their heads around, according to veterans advocacy groups. VA numbers are imprecise. Right now, there are no solid numbers on how many are suffering from PTSD, all are estimates. A 2014 study by the University of North Carolina School of Medicine claims that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans reporting problems with PTSD and alcohol are seven times more likely to engage in acts of severe violence that veterans not suffering from such conditions. No real surprise here.

PTSD as a Mitigating Factor in Sentencing of Veterans is Gaining Ground in Some States

In one study, estimates varied, but of the possible 20% of returning veterans who suffer from PTSD, roughly 5% find themselves in trouble with the law. An effort is being made to take into consideration veterans' military records once they find themselves in the court system.

In 2014, Alaska become the first state to pass a law allowing state judges to consider PTSD as a mitigating factor during the sentencing of veterans. "I spoke to people returning from Afghanistan and Iraq who said veterans were suffering from PTSD and getting into trouble once back," said Alaska State Rep. Les Gara, who sponsored the bill. "Some of the trouble they were getting into was minor criminal activities and those veterans deserve some consideration based on their service record." California followed Alaska with its own bill addressing the sentencing of veterans suffering from PTSD. A similar bill passed in Kansas.

Other avenues for assisting returning veterans in trouble with the law have also been created over the past decade. Veterans' courts have been popping up across the United States. First created in Buffalo, N.Y., in 2008, they are for veterans diagnosed with mental health conditions. Often drug testing and counseling are part of the sentencing program. Both are for minor offenses and not for capital crimes such as manslaughter, murder and rape. Veterans' treatment courts are much preferred over incarceration, say veterans advocates. 2008 also saw the creation of the Tulsa Veterans Treatment Court, the first of its kind at the time. Supporters were able to set it up through funding from the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. The court handles cases involving driving under the influence, assault and battery, domestic violence, and drug addiction. Today, there are four such courts in the U.S. The Tulsa court has a 96% participant completion rate.

DISCIPLINE VS. TREATMENT

In the case of Staff Sergeant Carlson, his request for clemency was denied by his commanding officer who stated he led other soldiers who also PTSD yet behaved legally.



Army spokesman Jeremy O'Bryan, a public affairs officer at Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, said prisoners arriving at Army correctional facilities are given initial mental health screening within two weeks along with medical and dental screening. The screening also takes into account past and current mental disturbances and suicide attempts. A behavioral health clinic staffed by two clinical social workers and five behavioral health specialists is located at the Northwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility in Washington, where Carlson is serving his sentence. O'Bryan notes that all Army correctional facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association when it comes to health care for prisoners. Prison time may worsen PTSD amongst diagnosed veterans, making them hyper-vigilant and causing their sleep to be more impaired, as testified by Anchorage criminal attorney Cynthia Strout during hearings on Alaska's bill. The Judge Advocate General's Corps' *Military Law Review* published an article by a United States Army prosecutor, Major Evan Seamone, the chief of military justice at Fort Benning, Ga., calling for changes in how military courts handle cases involving PTSD. It concluded the military system is too focused on discipline over treatment and fails to acknowledge mental wounds.

WARRIOR CODE

The United States military is at least addressing the issue of PTSD among inmates in its correctional facilities. Many states are not. The Alaska Department of Corrections for instance, does not even keep track of who is a war veteran within its inmate population. "People do cope with PTSD," said Maria Tolleson, chief of Public Information, United States Army/Army Medical Department. "It's not something that's disabling."

State News

The Holy Grail of Texas

190 years ago this week the Texians were surrounded in the Alamo

William Barret Travis made an appeal for help

190 years ago this week a group of men were digging in at the Alamo in preparation for a final stand against the Mexican army which surrounded them with about 1500 soldiers who had marched into San Antonio de Bexar the day before. On February 24, 1836 William Barret Travis wrote what has come down through history as the *Travis Letter* in a last ditch plea for support. After a thirteen day siege the Mexican army stormed the Alamo just before dawn on March 6. After repelling two attacks, the Texians were unable to fend off a third attack. As Mexican soldiers scaled the walls, most of the Texian fighters withdrew into interior buildings and as the battle wound down some of the defenders escaped the walls of the Alamo and were run down and killed by Mexican cavalry. All of the defenders were killed in the battle with the official death toll put at 189 and about 600 Mexican soldiers.

The letter that Travis wrote has become known as the *Travis Letter* and the battle cry for Texas as it became an independent nation and a state in 1845. Here are his words...

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World:

Fellow citizens & compatriots—I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained a

continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—Victory or Death.

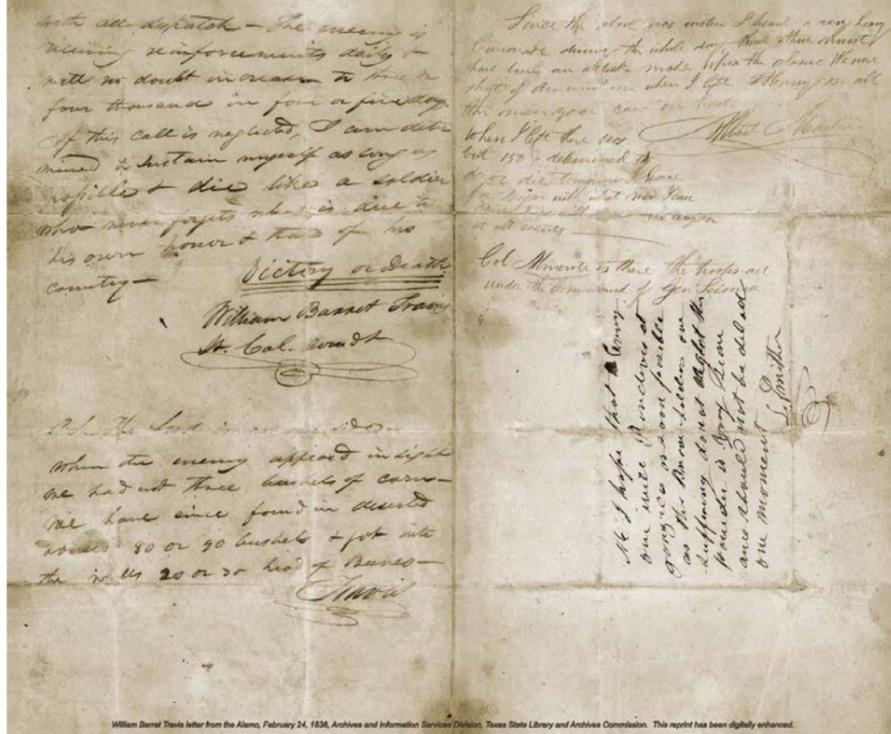
William Barret Travis

Lt. Col. comdt

P.S. The Lord is on our side—When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn—We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels & got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

Travis

Editor's note: The Alamo grounds have recently been renovated. If you have not been there since the improvements were put in place consider a day trip.



William Barret Travis letter from the Alamo, February 24, 1836, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission. This reprint has been digitally enhanced.

The Travis Letter

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4				6		5	9
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3	4		6				5
1	8						

Knuckle-Cracker

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	4	7		5		9	8
	5				1	2	
	8			1			7
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	9	1			6	8	

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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Brain-Buster

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3			7		2		
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Across

- 1. Second Amendment word
- 5. Complain gratingly
- 9. Praline ingredient
- 14. Least varying tide
- 15. Nabisco best seller
- 16. Hacienda brick
- 17. Hack's wheels
- 18. Slapstick ammo
- 19. Certain rental
- 20. Start of a voter's quip
- 23. "First Wives Club" members
- 24. Windshield shading
- 25. Strawberry was one
- 28. Exploring
- 30. Sure thing?
- 33. "Memorable" monument
- 35. Serpent's mark?
- 36. Gas-grill rock
- 37. Voter's quip, part 2
- 41. Ali Baba's command
- 42. VCR button
- 43. They can offend
- 44. Toon Chihuahua
- 45. Ease, as a load
- 48. Prefix meaning "ear"
- 49. Circus barker
- 50. Cato's bird
- 52. End of the quip
- 58. Lawful
- 59. Look for and gather
- 60. Jason's vessel
- 61. Battery terminal
- 62. Avoirdupois alternative
- 63. Kind of whisky
- 64. Dead duck
- 65. Planted
- 66. Banjo site, in song

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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33			34				35				36			
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	52	53					54					55	56	57
58						59					60			
61						62					63			
64						65					66			

Down

- 1. Detractor
- 2. Genuine
- 3. Long skirt
- 4. Net feat
- 5. Statue of Liberty's skin
- 6. Melodic passage
- 7. Rod partner
- 8. Optimistic
- 9. Leading, as the way
- 10. Papal proclamation
- 11. Sonata finale
- 12. Cain's bane
- 13. Keanu in "The Matrix"
- 21. Opponents of 25-Across
- 22. Trident's trio
- 25. College concentration
- 26. Bolt, then hitch
- 27. Occupied
- 29. "Twelfth Night" character
- 30. Gulliver creature
- 31. Tennis Hall-of-Famer
- 32. Final word
- 34. Augusta National members
- 36. Bygone Ford
- 38. Dickens' Heep
- 39. Pays no attention to
- 40. Seattle hoopster, for short
- 45. A, B or C
- 46. Candlemaking fat
- 47. Ashford of track
- 49. Type of remark
- 51. Make a pile
- 52. Port authority?
- 53. Desktop image
- 54. Continental dollar
- 55. Club in a bag
- 56. Shrek, e.g.
- 57. What one little piggy had
- 58. Fall behind

Fifteen Years Ago in the Island Moon



There was a turtle release on the beach at the Michael J. Ellis Seawall.



Dr. Donna Shaver at a PINS turtle release February 2011



The Judge, Doc Blankenship and Genteman Jim were holding court at Farah's Water Hole.



The German Bakery was about to open.

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Bathing Beauty By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Crossword Solution

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T	A	X	I		P	I	E	S		V	I	D	E	O
I	L	I	K	E	P	O	L	I	T	I	C	A	L	
			E	X	E	S		T	I	N	T			
M	E	T		P	R	O	B	I	N	G		Y	E	S
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J	O	K	E	S	U	N	L	E	S	S	T	H	E	Y
O	P	E	N		R	E	C			O	D	O	R	S
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A	N	O	D	E		T	R	O	Y		C	O	R	N
G	O	N	E	R		S	O	W	N		K	N	E	E



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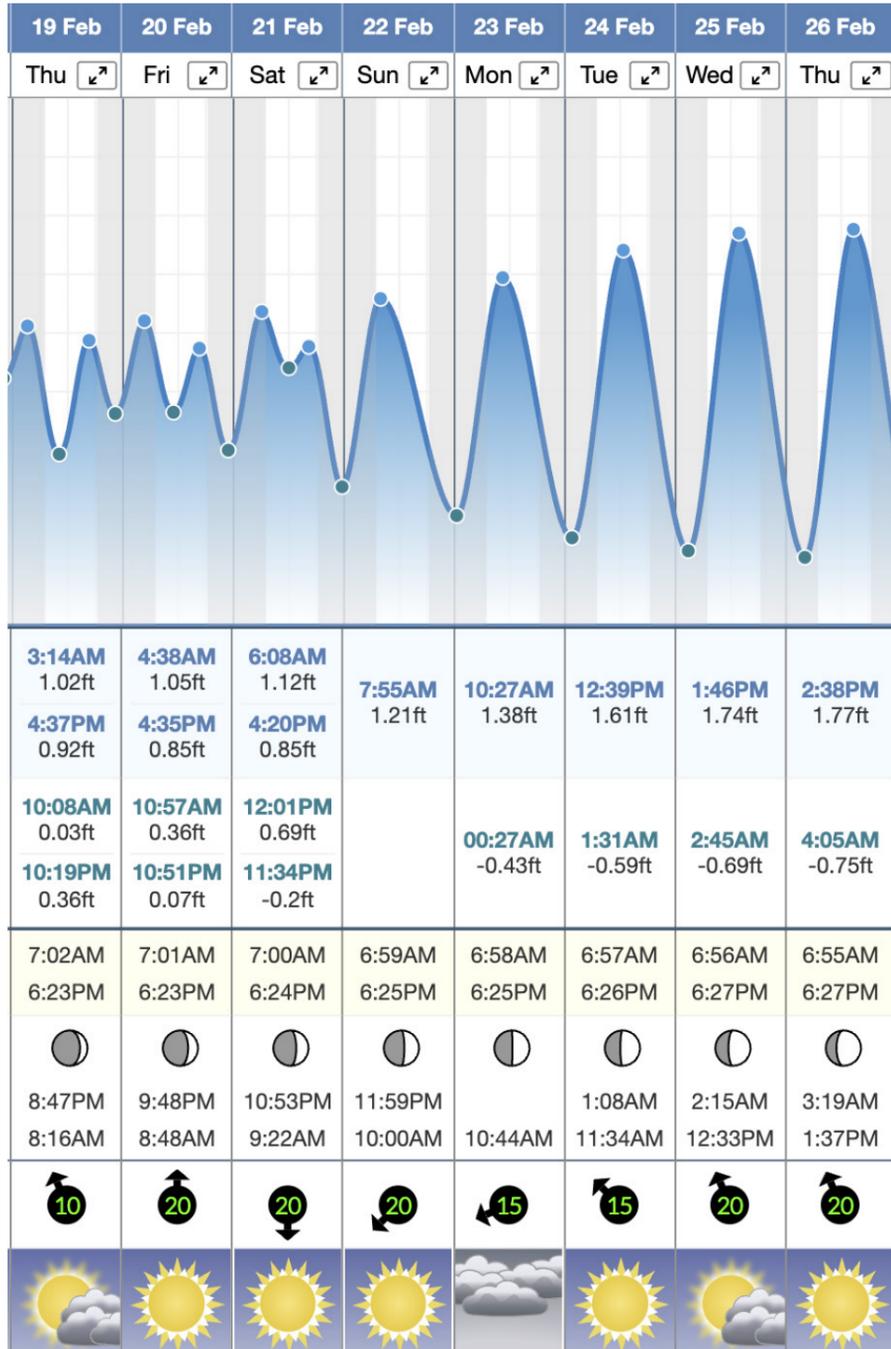
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Tides of the Week





Great Blue herons nest in colonies called a heronries. They build large nests made of sticks in dead or living trees. Nests are usually 3 to 4 feet in diameter.
Riekie Roncinske

Know where to go

Corpus Christi Beach Parking Areas



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- Corpus Christi City Limits
- Nueces / Kleberg County Line
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Island Moon Live

Our Thursday radio show is now streamed live on YouTube and Facebook! We have an enormous amount of different friends and guests, telling stories about how the Island used to be, and where we are heading. All of the videos are free to watch, and can be found on YouTube at Island Moon Live, on Facebook, or via these links. We record the show on Thursdays live at Doc's from 7 to 9 am.



Live Streams



Special Videos



2026 PIPOA eVoting Ballot Worksheet

Printed Property Owner's Name: _____
Printed Property Owner's Address: _____

Submission

Complete this Ballot Worksheet and mail* it to:
* Ballot worksheets must be signed, legible and received at the POA Office no later than **19 Mar 26**.
You may also personally deliver it to the office but the **POA staff will not accept ballot worksheets delivered by a 3rd party or incompletely filled out.**

PIPOA
14015 Fortuna Bay Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Ballot Details

Description:	2026 PIPOA Board of Directors and Bylaw Update - Electronic Voting Only
Calculation Method:	Weighted Property-Based Voting. POA Staff will Verify Name & Address
Reference Files:	Current (2023) Bylaws Candidate Resumes Section A Deed Update
Reference File Location:	https://padreislespoa.org "E-Voting INFORMATION"

Vote on Proposition 1: Board Member Candidates

Please vote for 4 of the following candidates:

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Terry Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jim McFadden | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ross Garcia | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tom Cable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mark Dick | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Randy Eaton | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Vote on Proposition 2: Bylaw Update

Now that the City of Corpus Christi owns the Seawall, the PIPOA must remove Para 4.05 "Seawall" from the Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association and refile the bylaws with Nueces County.

- Yes, I approve of this necessary change to avoid future financial responsibility for the Seawall.
- No, I disapprove.
- Abstain

This eVoting Ballot Worksheet is a written ballot that will be entered into the PIPOA electronic voting system and counted in the same manner as votes cast directly through the owner portal. PIPOA staff handling this worksheet will keep your voting selections confidential and will use them solely for verifying and recording your vote. We cannot enter your voting information into ManageCASA without your legible Name and Address printed above. Paper ballot worksheets received after 19 Mar 26 will not be counted.

By signing below, I certify that I am the record owner of the above property.

Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronniennarmour@gmail.com

Bon ton roulet...



Happy Mardi gras everybody!

Unless you've been hiding under a barn in Dumas, you may have noticed a lot of partying going on lately. I love Mardi gras and I love this time of year. The *Winter People* are thicker than thieves around here. I suppose they are reluctant to head back to their designated tundra. But here shortly they will all be heading back north when the lodging rates go up in March. At which point *Spring Break* will rear its ugly head from March 9-21. I'll let you know how to avoid the *Festering Den of Sin*. And to get a real good idea of just how huge our *Winter People* population was this year, just check out the pic of the *Gaff* last Saturday at the Belt Sander Races. The *Gaff's* owner **Kip Shannon** told me it was the biggest day they had ever had. And, I believe it. The *Gaff* has been on fire lately with all the *Mardi gras* hoopla and our big parade this week. The folks on NPI are having their *Barefoot Parade* at the end of the month. I've been watching the *Bourbon Street* mania on *EarthCam* for a week or so. It's not quite the same as going to NOLA. BTW the Port Aransas King and Queen of *Mardi gras* were crowned last Friday. Congratulations to **DeeDee** and **Tommy Shields** who are always ready to party. Let the good times roll my friends.

On the local front...



There's never been any larger crowd at the *Gaff* than at last week's Belt Sander Races.

And besides the music, there are still a boat load of upcoming events happening post *Mardi gras* on our beloved little island. The 29th annual *Whooping Crane Festival* is a four day event February 19-22 and features boat trips, birding tours, renowned speaker and photography workshops. This popular event celebrates the annual return of the cranes to their wintering habitat at the *Aransas Wildlife Refuge*. Also on February 21st, the *Parrot Heads* will be ushering in springtime with their annual *Spring Phling* to be held in *Roberts Point Park* pavilion with music furnished by the **PA Rockers**. That is always a perennial fave. And on February 27-28, the *Pirate and Poets* bunch will bring their annual event to *Shorty's* for their afternoon shows and the *Plantation Suites* for the evening shows. This one is also a big *Parrot Head* attraction.



The *PA Rockers* will play the *Spring Phling* in *Roberts Point Park* on the 21st.

Be sure to catch trop-rockers **Jerry Diaz** and **Dan Sullivan** if you can. And as far as live music is concerned, the flood gates open up on March 6 when the bars, which laid dormant this winter, come back online, such as the *Sip Yard*, *Bron's Backyard* and *Treasure Island*. March 6 is the beginning of our next tourist season. For me, this is the time of year when I get my gears cranked up and get ready to juggle a multitude of bands and venues. No problem, I got this.

Scattered shots...



Love Street played the *Port A VFW* last Saturday.

I saw a lot of familiar faces last week. The **Johnson All Starz** had **Mike O'Neil** of the old **Texas Blues Runners** with them. That was a treat. Also I caught a bit of **Chadwick Hunter** at the *Gaff* (he'll be back there this Thursday). I also saw **Lucy Morrison's** new band, **Harmonx** who played *Shorty's* after the gumbo cook-off. Plus **Love Street** played the *VFW* on *Valentines*, **Boudreau and Pousson** played the *Gaff* several times and **John Elijah** played *Shorty's* on *Fat Tuesday*, **Brad Ethridge** plus the **Coastal Benders** played the *VFW*.

Coming this week...

Coming this week watch for upcoming shows on Thursday from the **All Starz** at *Shorty's* and the **Clark Brothers** will play the *Salty Dog*. BTW I've been hearing some *Salty* rumors about that place lately. More will be revealed. On Friday the 20th someone I don't know... **Kevin Charles** will play the *Gaff*, **Art Barrera** will bring his *One Man Show* to *Shorty's* and **Dickie Delight** will play the *Dog*... no idea. On Saturday the 21st bluesman par excellent, **John Cortez**, will play the well worn stage at *Shorty's*... again more will be revealed there. Also on Saturday the **Silver Corvette Band** will play the *VFW* and **Coach Big Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff* alongside **Lucky the Chicken** who will be taking bets on his bowel discharge.

On the horizon...



Harmonx played *Shorty's* on *Valentine's*.

On the near horizon we have a lot to look forward to. On Friday the 27th another veteran trop-rocker will play the late shift at *Shorty's*, up and comer **Carson Miller** will play a solo show at the *VFW*. Trop-rocker **Billy Snipes** is at *Shorty's* and **Boo and Poo** will get it rocking at the *Gaff*. I already mention the *Barefoot Mardi gras Parade* on NPI on Saturday the 28th. Also power tools will be raced at the *Gaff*, **Aloha Dave** and the **Tourists** will play *Shorty's* after the *Pirate and Poet* guys get done and the **Profile Band** will play the *VFW*. And easing in March, **Mantle Jennings** will get the flood gates open on Friday the 6th, as will **Darren McGill** at the *Oldest and Friendliest*, the **Alley Catz** at the *Sip Yard*. And in the near future watch for shows by **Ruben V**, **Cathouse**, **Pat Green**, **Boone Holding**, **Riptide**, **Red Feather**, **Cruise Control**, **National Nobodyz**, **Brandon Michael**, **Palacios Brothers**, **Groove Chili**, **Left Right Left**, **Timothy Noel** and the **Smoking Guns** and **B-Flat Dueling Pianos**, etc. Y'all be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Crowning **DeeDee** and **Tommy Shields** the King and Queen of *Mardi gras* at the *Gaff* last Friday.



Boudreaux and **Pousson** played the festivities at the *Gaff* during *Mardi gras*.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday.

February 19

WHOOPING
CRANE FEST PA
Johnson All Starz @
Shortys
Chadwick Lee
Hunter @ Gaff
Clark Bros @ Salty
Dog
Marti Jay @ Hard
Knocks Island
Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's on the
Beach
Nathan Allen @
Brewster Island
Scarecrow People @
Brewster Downtown
David Martinez @
Brewster Southside
Third Coast Duo @
Executive Surf Club
CJ Simmons @
Cassidy's Irish Pub

Friday.

February 20

WHOOPING
CRANE FEST PA
Kevin Charles @
Gaff
Art Barrera @
Shorty's
Dickie Delight @
Salty Dog
Rip Tide Cowboy @
The Anchor
Eddie & The
Getaway @
Brewster Downtown
Koffin Kats, Last
Gang +2 @ House
of Rock
Carson Miller @
Pelican Lounge
18 Hours @
Rockit's
Alley Catz @
Brewster Island
Trisum @ Brewster
Southside
Eddie & the
Getaway @
Brewster Downtown
Under Ground
Frequency @
Cassidy's Irish Pub
The Taxmen-
Beatles Tribute @
Rialto AP

THE GAFF
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OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.
CHADWICK LEE HUNTER FEB 19
KEVIN CHARLES FEB 20
JIM DUGAN FEB 21
JAMES DERKITS FEB 23
BOO & POO FEB 27

SHORTY'S
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12
ART BARRERA FEB 20
JOHN CORTEZ FEB 21
BILLY SNIPES FEB 27
ALOHA DAVE FEB 28
PIRATES & POETS (AFTERNOON) FEB 27-28

Treasure Island
LUCKY DOGZ MAR 6
JON CAR MAR 7
BACK PEW REVIVAL MAR 13
NATIONAL NOBODYZ MAR 14
CARSON MILLER MAR 20

MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967
SILVER CORVETTE FEB 21
BRAD ETHRIDGE FEB 24
CLEARTONES FEB 25
PROFILE BAND FEB 28
COASTAL BENDERS MAR 4
CARSON MILLER MAR 6

Sip Yard
ALLEY CATZ MAR 6
CATHOUSE MAR 7
RIPTIDE MAR 12
CRUISE CONTROL MAR 13
B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS MAR 14
BUSHBULLIT MAR 19

Bron's BACKYARD
DARREN MCGILL MAR 6
RUBEN V MAR 7
LOVE STREET MAR 8
RICH LOCKHART MAR 10
JERRY WARD & DIRTY BIRDS MAR 11
THE GROOVE 2.0 MAR 12

Saturday.

February 21

WHOOPING
CRANE FEST PA
SPRING PHLING
w/ PA ROCKERS @
Roberts Point Park
CHICKEN POOP
BINGO @ Gaff
John Cortez @
Shorty's
Silver Corvette @
VFW Port A
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Dad Rock Night @
Brewster Downtown
Cruise Control @
Pelican Lounge
Wilden & Montoya
@ Cassidy's Irish
Pub

Dreaming in Color
@ Bone Shakers
The Klocks @
Rockit's
Michael Perez, Love
Street @ Executive
Surf Club
Meza @ Brewster
Island
Michael Burttis @
Brewster Southside
Dad Rock Night @
Brewster Downtown
2926 Give a Shimmy
Gala @ House of
Rock
Perpetual Change @
Rialto AP

Sunday.

February 22

WHOOPING
CRANE FEST PA
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz
@ Shorty's
Clark Bros @ Salty
Dog
Riptide Cowboy
Open Mic @ Mikel
May's Too
Lisa Sullivan @
Executive Surf Club

Monday.

February 23

James Derkits @
Gaff
Alonzo Cruz @
Pelican Lounge

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